

Inductive Bible Study Checklist

Observation: What does it say?

1. Read the background material related to the book
2. Read the whole book straight through to get an overview
3. Identify the author, audience, date, location, and main theme
4. Identify the genre (exposition, narrative, poetry, wisdom, prophecy, apocalyptic)
5. Read and summarize each paragraph; make a general outline the book
6. Read each paragraph slowly and carefully; record any important facts
 - a) Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, related, alike, unlike, true to life
 - b) Notice the key terms, basic grammatical structure of each sentence

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Follow these 5 steps after observing a particular paragraph

1. List your unanswered questions (who, what, when, where, why, how)
2. Check other translations if the passage is obscure or difficult to understand
3. Look up unfamiliar terms in a Bible dictionary, lexicon, or encyclopedia
4. Check related passages using the cross references, a concordance or software
5. Consult a Bible handbook, atlas or commentary for more information

Application: How does it apply?

Ask these nine questions of each paragraph:

1. Is there an example to follow?
2. Is there a sin to avoid?
3. Is there a promise to claim?
4. Is there a prayer to repeat?
5. Is there a command to obey?
6. Is there a condition to meet?
7. Is there a verse to memorize?
8. Is there an error to avoid?
9. Is there a challenge to face?